

Community demands Compensation!



Like storm troopers, the secret executioners gathered in the early hours of Tuesday 10th December and, instructed by the administration and its officers, swooped on 21 trees and cut them down.

The mayor and the deputy mayor have said “all the Councillors were behind this move”. Perhaps they are misinformed? We **know** not all the Councillors were behind him and were kept in the dark about this destruction.

They have both stated that there was nothing wrong with this action. The FoCP, disagree.

What FoCP did to dissuade them

- We spoke to every Councillor, some many times.
- We put out three newsletters in three weeks.
- We met the mayor in the ovals.
- We addressed the Council.
- We spoke to the administration.
- We wrote numerous letters to Councillors pointing out the flaws in their justifications.
- We collected over 500 signatures opposing the tree felling and tabled this in parliament.

Council Response

We believe that the Mayor and the administration realised that the FoCP petition of over 500 names (gathered in less than a week) would be presented to Parliament on Wednesday 11th December and that their plan to cut down the trees would be in jeopardy. They thought once the trees were cut down they were gone and they could proceed with their ill-conceived plan in peace. With the Festive Season upon us, we would all forget their contemptuous action and let them get on with it.

Who runs Glen Eira?

This is bureaucracy at its arrogant worst in overriding community wishes.

We have shown how their justifications for cutting down the trees are fabrications. So what is the real reason for their determination to proceed, no matter what the community thinks? If anyone knows the background to this determination to ride roughshod over all opposition, please drop a note to PO Box 2511, Caulfield Junction, 3161.

How did this happen?

The Councillors have voted their powers away. A combination of a determined and ruthless administration, not used to consultation, even with Councillors(some quietly determined Councillors and others did not know how to go about reversing a decision they had made) allowed the administration to go ahead and “carry out the Councillors’ instructions”.

But when no one is at fault, everyone is at fault.

The Council thinks it can thumb its nose at us with impunity. They need to learn that our community is not impressed with their anti-social, anti-community behaviour. There are two issues here. The one is the loss of the trees, and the other is the Council’s total disregard for the expressed concern of the community about this matter.

What Compensation?

The Council has disregarded community wishes and violated Caulfield Park. We want immediate action.

- ❖ Get rid of the Depot, turn it into an urban forest and
- ❖ plant hundreds of new trees in the eastern end of Caulfield Park.

The Year in Review

Prior to the carnage of the trees, FoCP had been thinking that the year had been one of quiet achievement.

- FoCP have facilitated several concerts that have re-established the use of the bandstand (Concerts begin again in February). There is positive dialogue with Council which has made a financial contribution.
- FoCP have rallied support for the renovation of the Conservatory which is scheduled to go ahead next year.
- Several new tree species have been planted in the western end after repeated encouragement to enhance this end of the park
- We have continued to press for the removal of the Depot, a facility which has no place on Crown Land. Sadly, our current mayor has told us he can see no difference between Caulfield Park, a piece of Crown Land, and some other parks actually owned by the City.
- We have, with your support, mounted a very strong opposition to cutting down the trees. On the positive side, 21 of the original 39 designated trees were cut down, but sadly they included some of the finest specimens; the ones left are mainly saplings.
- FoCP has continued to attract members and remains the only mouthpiece to Council for the casual/informal users of the park.
- We take this opportunity to thank you all for your fantastic support and look forward to working on behalf of the community in 2014.
- May you all have a great time over the Festive Season (but don’t forget to keep contacting your Councillors about compensation).

Tell the Councillors

The Council thinks in terms of wins and losses. Right now they think that this was a win for them and that we will all go away.

Show them they are wrong!

Let the Council know what you think of them. Support the community in calling for compensation for this act of brutality.

Email, message and phone them and tell them their behaviour is not acceptable. Tell them we want compensation and that they cannot spurn the community in this way.

How to contact your councillors

Councillor email addresses and contact numbers are:

Cr Michael Lipschutz, Phone 9530 0428 Mobile 0400 832 270 mlipshutz@gleneira.vic.gov.au

Cr Mary Delahunty, Phone: 9523 9105 Mobile: 0427 970 879 mdelahunty@gleneira.vic.gov.au

Cr Thomas Sounness, Mobile: 0428 596 951 tsounness@gleneira.vic.gov.au

Cr Margaret Esakoff, Phone 9578 2877 Mobile: 0407 831 893 Email: mesakoff@gleneira.vic.gov.au

Cr Karina Okotel, Mobile: 0424 479 454 Email: kokotel@gleneira.vic.gov.au

Cr Neil Pilling (Mayor): 9524 3225 Mobile: 0428 310 919 Email: npilling@gleneira.vic.gov.au

Cr Jamie Hyams, Mobile: 0427 319 018 Email: jhyams@gleneira.vic.gov.au

Cr Oscar Lobo, Phone: 9557 0108 Mobile: 0417 837 418 Email: olobo@gleneira.vic.gov.au

Cr Jim Magee, Phone: 9563 8360 Mobile: 0427 338 327 jmagee@gleneira.vic.gov.au

Do you Care about the Future of Caulfield Park?

If you do then we need your support! Renew your membership of the Friends now!

Friends of Caulfield Park is an incorporated group of concerned residents that formed in 2007.

Since then we have successfully engaged with Council on many matters concerning the park: tree labelling, brochure about tree walks, increased tree planting, prevention of fencing, the preservation of historic structures and more.

We believe that as a strong community group we should and will continue to play an important role in monitoring, proposing, and questioning Council's plans and activities in the park. To do this we must have your support. Why don't you join the committee and play a part. It's not hard and it's a lot of fun!

What do we stand for?

- To be an identifiable group representing the broad range of informal users, enjoyers, and appreciators of Caulfield Park
- To be recognised and accepted by the Glen Eira Council as a legitimate stakeholder group to be consulted with respect to any plans and proposals affecting Caulfield Park in any way.
- To be proactive in identifying necessary improvements to the park to reflect changing needs and priorities.

Join the Friends of Caulfield Park

If you want to know more about our future meetings, about our current activities, to join in helping care for the park, to defend it from or to provide feedback, then, contact our President – David Wilde on 0417 032 437, or visit our website at www.caulfieldpark.com or email us at caulfieldpark@gmail.com

Title ___ First Name _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Individual Membership \$20 Family Membership \$25

Donation (optional but welcome): _____

Please send your cheque or cash (together with form) to:

FoCP, PO Box 2511, Caulfield Junction,



Phone/Fax: 03 9523 9393
Email: ivan@yourpharmacy.com.au